

Title	Organization	Grant Funding	Match	Summary
Orca Network's Whale Sighting Network & Education Project	Orca Network  Contact: <i>Susan Berta</i> 360-678-3451	\$18,750	\$21,500	Expand the Whale Sighting Network and public education about endangered southern resident orcas and other whales and provide opportunities for volunteers to participate in gathering data on whales along the Washington coast. Data gathered through the network is utilized by organizations and agencies such as Center for Whale Research, the Whale Museum, NOAA Fisheries, University of Washington, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Puget Sound Action Team, among others. Orca Network will increase participation in their monitoring program through several varied methods of advertising and producing and distributing information. Southern resident orcas are federal and state listed endangered species. PCB contamination, habitat loss, and resource depletion are attributed to the population decline.
Soundwatch Boater Education Program	The Whale Museum  Contact: <i>Kari Koski</i> 360-378-4710 x33	\$20,000	\$100,170	Implement the Soundwatch Boater Education Program to promote responsible stewardship of the Salish Sea through the development, distribution, implementation, evaluation, and adjustment of best practice guidelines for marine wildlife viewing by residents, visitors, and commercial users. The program objective is to reduce vessel disturbance to killer whales in the Haro Strait region by educating boaters on marine wildlife viewing practices, developing and evaluating voluntary guidelines, and monitoring vessel activities. The program will reach recreational boaters through workshops, training presentations, and printed guidelines. Project partners include the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and San Juan County Marine Resources Committee.
Fisher Slough Habitat Phase 2 Acquisition	The Nature Conservancy  Contact: <i>Roger Fuller</i> 360-419-0175	\$88,700	\$10,000	Acquire approximately 15 acres of diked farmland in Fisher Slough in the Skagit Delta for the purpose of restoring riverine tidal/blind tidal channel and wetland habitat. Following acquisition, tidal riverine habitat will be restored by setting dikes back, restoring connectivity with the historic alluvial fan, and providing space for the creek and slough to meander naturally in response to hydrogeomorphic processes. The restored channel and riverine tidal wetland habitat will benefit chinook and coho salmon, as well as prey species for bald eagles which roost near Fisher Slough. Project partners include the Skagit River System Cooperative (tribal consortium), Skagit County, Skagit Watershed Council, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, and Skagit Conservation District.
Puget Sound Comprehensive Habitat Protection Pilot	Shared Strategy for Puget Sound  Contact: <i>Carol Macilroy</i> 206-447-7626	\$125,000	\$410,000	Identify regulatory, voluntary, incentive, and educational tools to develop a community-based ecosystem management plan to protect ecosystem functions for orca and salmon. This project will convene a group of decision-makers, community members, and key stakeholders in order to develop prioritized actions on areas in need of protection. In addition, this group will assess and evaluate existing protection programs in order to verify effectiveness. A task force of citizens, stakeholders, and scientists will be convened by the group of policy-makers in order to form new solutions for ineffective protection programs. These solutions will be assessed by a technical team of scientists who will review their overall ecological objectives and ensure that the solutions can be implemented. The San Juan County archipelago provides habitat for eelgrass, orcas, herring, salmon, and waterfowl. Partners contributing to this project include local conservation districts, Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups, Puget Sound Tribes, local business representatives, farmers, foresters, and citizens.

# Puget Sound Marine Conservation Fund Projects



